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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: SEATO Counterinsurgency School (C)

During the forthcoming SEATO Council of Ministers Meeting, 27-30 March 1961, in Bangkok, Thailand, communist insurgency action is expected to be one of the major items of discussion. Asian member nations are seriously concerned over the communist guerrilla and insurgency actions in Southeast Asia, especially Laos and Vietnam. These nations have criticized SEATO's ineffectiveness, expressed strong desires for positive action in Laos and have even discussed the possibility of organizing an Asian collective defense organization.

The Department of Defense believes that the United States must come forth, during the meeting, with as many concrete proposals as possible to assure other members, especially Asian members, that the United States strongly supports and is prepared to meet her obligations in the treaty area.

The Department of Defense intends to recommend to the Department of State that the Secretary of State propose the establishment of a SEATO Counter-Insurgency School during the forthcoming Council Meeting. The purpose of the school would be to train, advise and assist the nations in the area threatened or actually engaged in counterinsurgency operations. Establishment of the SEATO Counter-Insurgency School would not be in conflict with, but complementary to, the US unilateral counter-guerrilla school soon to be established in Okinawa.

The school should be operated on a cost-sharing basis applying the formula now used for other SEATO activities. Establishment of the school would indicate to the Asian nations that SEATO is at long last taking specific action to meet the serious guerrilla insurgency and subversive actions being carried on so

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effectively by the Sino-Soviet Bloc in the area. The multi-lateral instructional staff would take advantage of the skills, experiences and techniques of all member nations, especially the Philippine experiences in the Huk war and Commonwealth experience in Malaya.

It is requested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff provide comments on the attached draft U.S. position paper not later than 14 March 1961.

1 Encl.
Draft US Position Paper

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